RAMSEY
Urban District Council

Medical Officer's Report

FOR

1936.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report:—

Public Health Officers in the Area :

Medical Officer of Health : T. C. LEWIS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Sanitary Inspector : V. J. BATEMAN, Assoc. Royal Sanitary Institute.

Both Offices are part-time Appointments.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area	15,980 acres, of which 13,720 are Fen Land.
Estimated Population (mid 1936) ...	5,118
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1936	1,442
Rateable Value...	£15,476
Value of Penny Rate (Gross) ...	£64 : 9 : 8.

As the majority of the inhabitants are employed in Agriculture, there is no industry prejudicial to public health in the area.

Since the advent of the neighbouring Aerodrome, there has been very little unemployment in the area.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total	Males	Females
Live Births:	Legitimate ...	90	41	49
	Illegitimate ...	3	2	1

Birth Rate for Ramsey ... ... 16.2 per 1,000

„ for England and Wales 14.8 per 1,000

		Total	Males	Females
Still Births:	Legitimate ...	2	2	0
	Illegitimate ...	1	1	0

Rate per 1,000 Total Births 32.2

Rate per 1,000 Population Ramsey 0.58

Rate per 1,000 Population England & Wales 0 61

	Total	Males	Females
Deaths:	64	33	31

Death Rate for Ramsey (adjusted) 11 8 per 1,000

„ England and Wales 12.1 per 1,000

Deaths from Diseases of Pregnancy and Childbirth { from Sepsis 0; „ Other Causes 0

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—

Total Deaths	6
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births Ramsey ...	64.4
„ „ England and Wales ...	59.0
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Births	64.4
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough	2
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ...	0
Deaths from Cancer	7

Of the six deaths of Infants under one year, four had congenital defects, one was mentally deficient and the other died of Whooping Cough and Pneumonia.

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Nursing in the Home.—(*a*) Three District Nurses, who are qualified Midwives, are supplied by the Ramsey Nursing Association, which is a purely voluntary body. These Nurses also act as Health Visitors, and attend School Inspections. There are five Certified Midwives in the Area.

(*b*) Cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria are usually sent to the Huntingdon Isolation Hospital. Other Infectious Diseases are nursed at home.

Laboratory Facilities.—Tuberculous Investigations are carried out by the County Medical Officer and all Pathological Examinations by the Clinical Research Association. Water Analyses are performed by the Public Analyist at Cambridge.

Legislation in Force :

Bye-Laws.—1. Nuisances, 1918.
2. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, 1936.
3. Slaughter Houses, 1916.
4. Common Lodging Houses.

Hospitals.

The local Scarlet Fever and Small Pox Hospitals have been closed and accommodation is now obtained at Huntingdon Isolation Hospital under a joint scheme.

General Hospitals.

1.—The County Hospital, Huntingdon.
2.—The Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
3.—Addenbrooke's Hospital Cambridge.

Arrangements are quite satisfactory for the District.

Ambulances.

1.—One Motor Ambulance at Huntingdon.
2.—One Motor Ambulance at Peterborough.
3.—One Infectious Disease Ambulance at Huntingdon.
4.—One Voluntary Ambulance at Whittlesey.

Clinics.

The Infant Welfare Clinic has been taken over by the County Medical Officer, who also holds a Monthly Clinic in the Town.

All cases of Veneral Disease are recommended to attend the Peterborough Clinic.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

WATER.

1. (*a*)—There is, as yet, no definite Water Supply. All Water used for drinking purposes is obtained from Storage Tanks, Pumps, Wells and Dykes. Analyses show that it is unfit for drinking unless it is first boiled.

It is hoped to instal a plentiful supply of good Water before the end of 1937.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

(*b*)—Septic Tanks deal with all Sewerage before it empties into the River. All Refuse is disposed of by a Controlled Tipping System which is working very successfully.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

2. There is no pollution of Rivers and Streams in the Area.

GENERAL SANITARY REPORT.

3. (*a*)—**Closet Accommodation.**—10 new Water Closets were provided and 2 Pail Closets were converted into W.C.'s.

(*b*)—**Public Cleansing.**—Dry House Refuse is collected in covered carts and disposed of by Controlled Tipping.

Refuse from Earth Closets and Privies is collected at night by carts and is eventually used as manure.

Cesspools are emptied in the same way and the refuse spread on the land. No pumps are used.

SCHOOLS.

4.—There are seven Schools in the district, and Sanitary Conditions are satisfactory. Disinfection of Classrooms after cases of Infectious Disease is carried out immediately by the Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. **Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—**

1.	(*a*) Total number inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Act)	90
	(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose	221
2.	(*a*) Number of Houses included under (1) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925	78
	(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose	184
3.	Number of Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	35
4.	Number of Houses (exclusive of 3 above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	6

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices 6

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :*

A.	Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of Housing Act, 1930	
1.	Number of Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	6
2.	Number of Houses rendered fit after service of formal notices	
	(*a*) By owners	6
	(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owner ...	0
B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts	0
C.	Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 Housing Act 1930...	0
D.	Proceedings under Section 20 Housing Act. 1930	0

4. **Housing Act 1935—Overcrowding.**

(*a*).	1.	No. of Dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	35
	2.	No. of Families dwelling therein	35
	3.	No. of Persons living therein	211
(*b*).		No. of new cases of overcrowding reported...	35
(*c*).	1.	No. of cases of overcrowding during the year	13
	2.	No. of persons concerned in such cases ...	71
(*d*).		Any cases recorded after abatement	—
(*e*).		Any other particulars	—

Action under the Housing Act, 1930, has been rather slow, but it is hoped that a further 100 houses will be built before December, 1938.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. **Milk Supply.**—There are 8 Cowkeepers in the area and 32 inspections were made. Conditions remain satisfactory.

2. **Meat and Other Food.**

   (*a*) **Meat**—There are 6 Slaughter Houses in the area. They were inspected 72 times, and found to be properly conducted.

   (*b*) **Bakehouses.**—In the 8 regularly inspected, conditions were found to be satisfactory.

3. **Adulteration.**—No action was taken by the local Authority

4. **Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations of Food,—**

   No action was taken by the Local Authority.

5. **Nutrition.**—No special work was done on the subject.

(*c*) **Sanitary Inspector's Report.**

Total Number of Inspections made				860
Total Number of Notices served :		Informal 16 Statutory —		16
Complaints received				10
	Number		Nuisances	
Premises, Houses, etc. ...	Inspected	120	Abated	42
Pool, ditch, gutter, watercourse	,,	—	,,	—
Animals improperly kept ...	,,	1	,,	1
Privy. urinal, cesspool, ashpit	,,	60	,,	4
Drain, drain-traps, etc. etc. ...	,,	0	,,	0
House, or part thereof, over-crowded	,,	630	,,	10
Smoke Nuisances	,,	—	,,	—
Offensive Accumulations ...	,,	—	,,	—
	Registered		Inspections	
Lodging Houses	,,	—	,,	—
Slaughter Houses, Number Licensed or Registered	,,	6	,,	72
Offensive Trades (Sec. 112) Public Health Act, 1875 Number Established	,,	—	,,	—
Canal Boats, Registered ...	,,	—	,,	—
Number with Infectious Diseases on Board	,,	—	,,	—
Public Health Act. 1875	No. of houses condemned			—
	,, Closed			—
	,, Cleaned & limewashed			—
Food—Seizures of unwholesome...	Number of...			—
Infectious Diseases ...	Houses affected with ...			10
	Houses inspected ...			10
	No. of inspections ...			10
	Houses disinfected ...			10
	Schools			4
	Disinfectant used ...			S02
	Lots clothing disinfected			—
	Lots clothing destroyed			—
Privy Middens	New provided			—
	No. repaired			—
	No. converted to pails ...			2
	No. converted to W.C.'s			1

Pail or Earth Closets ...	New provided	—
	No. converted to W.C.'s	2
Water Closets	New provided	10
	No. supplied with water	10
Ashpits	New provided	—
	No. converted to Ashbins	4
Ashbins	New provided	4
Water Supply	Samples taken for analysis	—
	Samples condemned ...	—
	Wells closed	—
	Wells cleansed, repaired,	2
	Public Supply substituted for well or pond ...	—
	Cisterns cleaned, repaired covered	—
	Waste pipes disconnected from drain	—
Housing, etc., Act, 1909	No. of Houses closed ...	—
	No. made habitable ...	—
	No. demolished	—
Building Bye-laws adopted ...	... ...	—
Total Legal Proceedings, *i.e.* Summonses, &c. ...	... ...	—
Convictions, ...	... ...	—

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

Workshops	Total number on register (including bakehouses)	92
	No. in which nuisances abated	—
Bakehouses	No. on register	8
	No. in which nuisance abated	—
Home Work	No. of outworkers ...	—
	No. of houses	—
	No. of infected houses ...	—
Legal Proceedings, *i.e.* Summonses, etc., ...	... ...	—
Convictions ...	... ...	—

(*d*) **Smoke Abatement.**—No action necessary.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The incidence of Infectious Diseases in the Area was again low.

There were 9 cases of Scarlet Fever: equivalent to 1.75 per 1,000 of the population, that of England and Wales being 2.53 per 1,000.

There was one case of Diphtheria, giving a case rate of 0.19 per 1,000 as against 1.39 per 1,000 in England and Wales.

There were no cases of Small Pox, Typhoid Fever or Puerperal Fever notified.

16 Cases of Pneumonia were notified of which six proved fatal.

A fairly widespread epidemic of Whooping Cough occurred during the winter—there were two deaths.

The outbreak of Influenza in December was widespread, but of a mild character. There were no fatal cases.

Two cases of Erysipelas were notified during the year: both cases were treated at home.

There was one positive result from Throat Swabs.

Cancer.—The Death Rate from Cancer was lower than that of previous years. One in nine of the total deaths were caused by this disease.

Blindness.—Chronic cases are looked after by the Hunts. Society for the Blind. Other cases of Eye Disease are attended to at Peterborough by arrangement with the County Medical Officer.

Tuberculosis.—All cases are referred to the County Medical Officer.

Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis.)

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever... ...	9	9	0
Diphtheria	1	1	0
Puerperal Fever ...	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	0	0	0
Pneumonia	16	1	6
Erysipelas	2	0	0

Tuberculosis

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	—	1	...	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	...	—	—	—	—	—
65*	—	1	...	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	0	2	3	0	1	0	0	0

The fatal case had been notified previously.

Ramsey Urban District.
Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year, 1936.

1	At all Ages. 2	Under 1 Year 3	1 and under 2 4	2 and under 5 5	5 and under 15 6	15 and under 25 7	25 and under 45 8	45 and under 65 9	65 and upwards 10
ALL CAUSES.	64	6	1	0	1	1	6	12	37
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
General Paralysis of the Insane	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encaphalitis lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer, malignant disease ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	3
Rheumatic Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diabetes...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c. ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Heart Disease	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	22
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (all forms)... ...	6	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	2
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhœa etc. (under 2 years)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Senility	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Acute and Chronic Nephritis...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Debilty and Malformation, Premature Birth...	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suicide	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other Deaths from violence ...	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Other Defined Diseases ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Special Causes including above									
Poliomyeltis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	64	6	1	0	1	1	6	12	37

I am, Gentlemen, Your obedient Servant,

T. C. LEWIS, M.R.C.S. (Eng.)., L.R.C.P. (Lond.)

Medical Officer of Health

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